



FROM THE SHERIFF

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OFFICE OF THE LEWIS COUNTY SHERIFF
SHERIFF STEVE MANSFIELD

"COMMITTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

E-Newsletter ★ November 2009

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FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF MANSFIELD



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HERO

Deputy Stephen "Mike" Gallagher, Jr.
End of Watch 08-18-09

On August 17, 2009, Deputy Stephen "Mike" Gallagher was involved in a collision with an elk on Highway 12 just outside of Packwood. He was responding to back up a fellow officer on a domestic violence dispute when the accident occurred. The local fire and aid crews did an outstanding job of responding, stabilizing and preparing Mike for an air transport to Harborview Hospital. Despite a gallant effort by all involved, Mike passed away the next day at Harborview Hospital in Seattle on August 18th at 2000 hours.

Mike worked for the Sheriff's Office since 2004 and was a trusted, respectful and responsible young man who upheld his Oath of Office and helped achieve our Mission in an exemplary fashion. He was a devoted husband, loving father and a caring friend to many of us.

The time since the accident has been very difficult. Mike's picture sits in my office and at other various locations around the Sheriff's Office and Jail. A vivid message and reminder of how short, unpredictable and precious life is. A reminder that it's not so important we know how much time we have but instead what we do with the time we do have, and that behind every employee is a family and friends who are a very special part of their lives.

Of all the things I will remember most from this tragedy is the special opportunity to meet Mike's mom, dad, sister, wife, children, and other family and friends. In an extremely vulnerable time, they were powerful examples of true love and support. The outpouring of community and law enforcement support to the family and my office was overwhelming and gave us all the strength to pick up and carry on.

Even though we took a moment to pause to remember and honor Mike, the business of working to keep this community safe never stopped and countless law enforcement agencies chipped in to cover and serve our community as we said goodbye to Deputy Gallagher. To all of you who stood by us and came to help, I am forever grateful for the time you provided and the opportunity you gave us at a very difficult moment.

This tragedy has affected all of us in different ways. In the days, weeks and years ahead we will continue to be affected by the loss of Deputy Gallagher. We have all experienced this together and it is my hope we will all find a way through it together as a family and as a community.

You continue to make me proud to be your Sheriff.

Sheriff Steve



Gone but not forgotten...



CONTRACT SERVICES: A CRITICAL ELEMENT OF THE JAIL OPERATION

PART TWO — FOOD SERVICES

By Lieutenant Jim Pea

Since the early 1990's, we've contracted with Consolidated Food Management (CFM) from Mercer Island to operate our kitchen. The fact we have maintained a contract with them for that length of time is a clear indicator of the excellent quality of service they have provided.

CFM's food service staff consists of a full time manager and two and a half cook positions. CFM staff operates a large, state of the art kitchen, which was a part of the recent jail expansion and remodel. CFM staff is also supported by a morning and evening shift of inmates. The inclusion of inmate labor helps keep operating costs down and at the same time allows the inmates, assuming they perform well, an opportunity to get a significant reduction in their sentence.

From the same kitchen, CFM provides food service for the Lewis County Juvenile Detention Center. This represents another cost savings to the county. In 2008, the jail kitchen served 243,877 meals to the jail and 25,185

to the juvenile center. Combined services of the two facilities, the use of inmate labor, and sound management by CFM staff has resulted in a cost per meal of just \$1.43.

Operating a kitchen in a jail provides many unique challenges. Most obvious are safety and security concerns. While inmates assigned to work details are commonly called "trustees", that doesn't mean there aren't occasional problems related to the "trust" part. After each shift, all knives and other potentially dangerous items must be accounted for. Food service staff must be vigilant when supervising inmates. While inmates assigned to the kitchen get the benefit of more food than those in general population, it's no guarantee of resistance to tendencies to pilfer a few extra items from time to time. Or to try to pass a note or other item to a friend in another area of the jail while helping deliver or retrieving meal trays, or create products of contraband.

Fruit items require close watch because it is a prime ingredient in what is generally

known in jail as "pruno", or "jail wine". Although a rare occurrence at the Lewis County Jail, in the past corrections staff have disrupted and confiscated pruno in the making. If not prevented from brewing, pruno can be a valuable commodity within the inmate population in larger prison systems, not only as a beverage of choice for many, but for its considerable trade value for different things, often other items of contraband. To avoid being caught producing this particular specialty drink, the production has to take place through covert means. During fermentation, pruno is often made in plastic bags, socks and incredibly, even toilet bowls. While the latter is repulsive, it provides a good indication of the extent some will go, disregarding all health and other concerns to produce this product. (A search of "pruno" in Wikipedia

provides a more detailed, colorful and mostly accurate description of this age old jail concoction.)

Another challenge facing food service and custody staff is providing a variety of special meals for inmates with specific health or religious concerns. Some of these requests are not legitimate and waste custody, medical and food service personnel time.

A request for a special diet for health reasons is easily determined after consultation with medical personnel. Conversely, requests for religious oriented diets can be difficult and time consuming to authorize and validate. Because the right to practice a religion or faith, including a religious diet, is a constitutional right, staff must be careful in determining the legitimacy of each request. Even though the practice of religion is a constitutional right, there is no clear legal guidance as to how jails must act in that regard. Related federal case law is not only unclear but conflicting, making it very difficult for jail's to decide an approach that guarantees the protected right while at the same time assuring the

safety, security and orderly operation of the jail. Some courts have ruled an inmate must be provided a religious diet upon request, regardless of their affiliation with, or for that matter even an understanding of, a certain religion or belief. Other courts have said the inmate can be reasonably required to prove a "sincerity of belief" of the claimed religion or practice.

The jail currently uses a procedure to help determine the "sincerity of belief" of a claim. First, the inmate's request is referred to a chaplain. The chaplain meets with the inmate and asks several questions about the inmate's knowledge of certain beliefs or practices of the religion they claim to practice. The chaplain will then provide jail administration with a recommendation to provide or deny the special meal request based upon the answers the inmate provides. The requesting inmate might also be required to provide jail staff with contacts for verification at various places of worship where they practice. With the size of our inmate population, the jail sees quite a few requests for religious diets. Not surprisingly, some are not legitimate, and take time to investigate. Some inmates think they'll get a better meal if they are allowed a religious diet of some sort; some just make the request to be annoying. When we implemented our test to help determine "sincerity of belief" there were at that time three inmates receiving kosher diets for claimed religious purposes. Once they learned of the scrutiny of their requests, all three cancelled their "religious" diets rather than be subjected to the process.

Another difficulty food service employees encounter is dealing with inmate workers who were not necessarily in the top ten of their graduating class. Once, when the food service manager noticed a particular inmate was not doing a very good job cleaning a grill, she encouraged him to use a little "elbow grease", at which point the inmate began looking around for the "elbow grease" container. In another situation, an inmate worker had difficulty following a cake recipe and instead of adding five ounces of salt, added five pounds!



A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY



*Deputized Civilian John M. Haney
End of Watch: November 15, 1919*



*Deputy Sheriff Seth Riving Jackson
End of Watch: April 7, 1937*



*Deputy Sheriff Ernest Runke
End of Watch: September 19, 1957*



*Deputy Sheriff Richard A. Snider
End of Watch: February 8, 1986*

Prior to the recent death of Deputy Mike Gallagher, the Lewis County Sheriff's Office had not had a line of duty death since 1986, and only four in the history of the Sheriff's Office.

- Deputy Richard Snider suffered a fatal heart attack after struggling with a prisoner at the county jail. He had responded to assist another deputy who was being assaulted by the prisoner. It was Deputy Snider's 48th birthday.
- Deputy Ernest Runke had been handing out dinner when three inmates assaulted him with a broom handle and hot coffee. The trio had plotted an escape plan using a 100-foot rope to climb down from the roof of the courthouse. Also injured in the attack was an inmate who was attempting to help Runke. Deputy Runke later succumbed to the injuries he received from the attack. Mr. Runke had previously served for the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners.
- Deputy Seth "Riv" Jackson was shot and killed while he and his partner attempted to stop two robbery suspects near Chehalis. During the shootout, Deputy Jackson was shot in the chest and mortally wounded. His partner and at least one of the suspects were also wounded. Two men were eventually apprehended and convicted.
- Information on Deputized Civilian John Haney was just recently submitted to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Committee for recognition of a line of duty death. Research has revealed Deputy Haney was shot and killed after being deputized to assist with the arrest of protesters who had shot and killed four soldiers participating in the Armistice Day Parade four days earlier. The posse had pursued the men into a wooded area but were fired upon by the suspects. Deputy Haney was struck twice and killed. He had served as a deputized civilian for four days.

OFFICER ROGER PENDERGRASS NAMED SPIRIT OF THE RED CROSS HERO

Lewis County Sheriff's Office Corrections Officer Roger Pendergrass was selected as the recipient of the 2009 Spirit of the Red Cross Hero award at the American Red Cross Real Heroes Breakfast in August.

Last January, Officer Pendergrass was scheduled for his regular shift at the Lewis County Jail when several mudslides across the roadway prevented him from traveling from his home to work. In this type of situation, Lewis County policy requires the employee to take vacation time when they are unable to travel to and from work. Rather than enjoy his mandatory vacation from the comfort of his own home, Officer Pendergrass, a 29-year volunteer firefighter, volunteered and went to work during this time assisting folks who were in need, distributing supplies, cleaning debris, and moving dislocated families. He volunteered numerous hours of hard work, kindness, compassion, and community service to the residents of Morton.

Sheriff Steve Mansfield stated, "Officer Pendergrass not only demonstrated caring and compassion in making a difference to the citizens of Morton and Lewis County, but he also strengthened the existing partnerships between the Lewis County Sheriff's Office and other response agencies during this tragic event."

In fulfilling the mission of the Sheriff's Office, Officer Pendergrass demonstrated his personal commitment to the citizens of Lewis County. His hard work deserves recognition and truly exemplifies the definition of a hero.

Congratulations Officer Pendergrass!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN



Sheriff Mansfield kicked off the Lewis County 2009 Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign opening ceremonies at the Winlock High School on May 29, 2009, as participants eagerly awaited their turn to run with the ceremonial torch as it journeyed through the county's 22-mile route from Winlock to Schaeffer Park in Centralia.

The torch pictured with the runners is the Lewis County Law Enforcement Torch and represents all local law enforcement agencies in Lewis County. Our local officers this year raised \$2,932 to benefit Special Olympics.

The first runner of the day to carry the torch was Napavine High School Senior Kelsey Williams, 18-year old daughter of Sheriff's Office Property Manager Belle Williams. Kelsey ran the torch seven miles from Winlock to the Napavine High School, where she was greeted by her fellow classmates. (Awesome job Kelsey!)

This particular torch was first lit and used on May 9, 2009, in Kuwait. Trooper Rob Moore of the Washington State Patrol Chehalis Detachment coordinated a torch run with military personnel while stationed overseas.

Deputy English assisted at the Summer Games Opening Ceremonies escorting runners into McChord Air Force Base. The Lewis County torch was used to light this year's Opening Games "Flame of Hope" cauldron.

A special thank you to Centralia Police Officer Doug Lee and Sheriff's Office Deputy Tim English who coordinated this year's event. Others who participated from the Sheriff's Office included Lieutenant Kevin Hanson, Sergeant Rob Snaza, Detective Tom Callas, and Deputy Rick Van Wyck.



B. Reynolds '09

Above: Napavine Senior Kelsey Williams being cheered on by Napavine school students.



Left: Deputy English running with students from the Pe Ell School District

Below: Deputy English carries the LE Torch.



B. Reynolds '09

Photos Courtesy of Bradd Reynolds Photography

LEWIS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

NOAA Weather Radio Month

September was NOAA Weather Radio month. Citizens of Lewis County are encouraged to purchase and use a Weather Radio to receive early watches and warning messages.

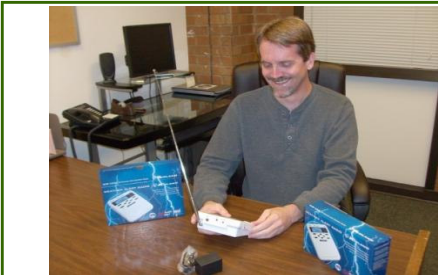
Weather Radio is designed to continually receive and broadcast all hazards alert notifications through special frequencies not normally used by music and talk radio stations.

Weather Radios operate 24-hours a day, 7 days a week and are on guard to alert citizens to emergencies and weather conditions even when other communication lines are unavailable.

Citizens can program their radio to receive all messages disseminated by the National Weather Service or restrict the messages to just the local alerts.

The display model radios emit an audible alert with a visible indicator light displaying a "watch" or "warning" text message. Messages can be received for a wide range of emergency infor-

mation including: earthquakes, floods, volcanic activity, chemical releases, and AMBER child abduction alerts.



Emergency Management Coordinator Tim Brodt is seen programming a NOAA Weather Radio to receive only local alert messages.

son. In the past few years, disaster events have affected large sections of the Pacific Northwest and showed that the more rural communities need to be self-sufficient for 3-5 days before responders are able to get assistance to them.

The Lewis County Board of County Commissioners have passed a Proclamation declaring September "NOAA Weather Radio Month." Governor Christine Gregoire and the National Weather Service also have similar Preparedness campaigns this month.

FEATURED PARTNER... RIVER WATCHERS PROGRAM

Lewis County recently experienced two rapidly rising floods that caused record damages. To assist with analyzing unpredicted events, Emergency Management has developed a River Watcher Program.

"Volunteers that live near rivers that frequently flood can provide more timely information to us during heavy rains," states Ross McDowell. "We'll add the local information to the National Weather Service notices and alert the public quicker."

Anyone interested in participating in the program can obtain more information by calling (360) 740-1151. You must live near a frequently flooding river or stream that contributes significantly to flooding issues and be willing to report during events.

The Public Service Spectrum Includes:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Services
- E911
- Emergency Medical Services
- **Emergency Management**

For emergencies and disasters that cross jurisdictional lines, Emergency Management facilitates coordination between Lewis County's 67 response entities and state/federal agencies.

Emergency Management Preparedness Quiz

Take the following quiz and **E-mail your answers to: DEM@lewiscountywa.gov** for a chance to win a **free** NOAA Weather Radio. Winners will be notified by return mail. Answers will appear in the next volume.

1. Citizens should be prepared to be self sufficient for a minimum of 3-5 days following a disaster. True / False	2. Weather Radio broadcasts alerts during business hours only. True / False
3. The River Watchers Program: A. Is all volunteer B. Is made up of citizens living near the rivers that contribute to flooding C. Increases notices and alerts to the public D. All the above	4. The Public Service Spectrum includes: A. Law Enforcement B. Fire Services C. E911 D. Emergency Medical Services E. Emergency Management F. All of the above
5. Lewis County Emergency Management is the agency that coordinates partnerships between all responders of the Public Service Spectrum to promote mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts. True / False	

Mission Statement

Lewis County Emergency Management shall seek to minimize the impacts of disasters and emergencies on people, property, and the environment of Lewis County through strong partnerships that promote mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts.